

SECRET
Security Information

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: JANUMS, Vilis

1. The files of this office contain the following information concerning Subject, Col. Vilis JANUMS, who was born on 7 January 1894. A usually reliable source reported on 27 December 1951 that Subject had been the commander of the 17th Division of the Latvian Army. He was the president of the Daugavas Vanagi, an organization of Latvian veterans with headquarters reportedly in England. A member of the presidium of the Latvian National Council (LNC), he reportedly established a Latvian screening team in Kreis Hildesheim, Germany, to interview prisoners of war returning from Iron Curtain countries.

2. On 6 October 1952 a usually reliable source stated that Subject was the chairman of the Latvian Central Committee (LCC), located at a DP camp in Augustdorf, Germany. The LCC published the weekly, Latvija, in Grafenachau, Germany, a general newspaper that was clearly anti-Soviet and pro-Latvian in emphasis. The publishers of Latvija also printed Latvian propaganda pamphlets in German, English and Latvian. The Daugavas Vanagi, of which JANUMS was also the head, was described as a veterans' welfare organization which was non-political, though patriotic in character. It was reported that Subject and some of his Daugavas Vanagi adherents, because of personal ambitions or other reasons of their own, stood apart from other main currents of Latvian emigre life which were, at the time of the report, progressing rapidly toward some form of political unification. JANUMS was described as being very intelligent, but firm and uncompromising in his opinions. He was said to be a martinet and a man who gives orders and expects them to be obeyed.

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RI/SC: ASJ/VL/bmg

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